

Something About the Prosperous Town of Baker

IDEAL SANTA ROSA COUNTY TOWN THAT HAS GROWN AS IF BY MAGIC FROM PLOWED FURROW TO MODERN TOWN DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS.

By I. B. HILSON,
In "The Santa Rosian."

Where less than twenty-four calendar months ago was a plowed field now stands a monument to the industry and industry of a few men, a modern village with brick and concrete stores, up-to-date homes, a well attended school with able teachers, a modernly conducted hotel, partly graded and shaded avenues, a splendid little paper to chronicle the happiness, boost the development, and make public the coming prospects of its town.

This town is not built in anticipation of a boom where newly discovered ore is to be taken from its hills to be developed into manufactured product. It is not planned with the idea that a new Eldorado will be found, nor is it expected to be a metropolis of vast proportions.

This town has been planned with the idea of soon-at present expeditious manner, very soon—to be a home of say, three to five thousand good citizens who expect to live and die within its environment; to live, to love, to prosper and be happy as should be met with every good, God-fearing citizen who loves his wife, adores his children and works for home and country.

No Golconda is expected and none will be found, but for a hamlet where citizens will prosper from the fertility of soil and the products of land, none should be more prosperous.

Only a few years ago there were located here a few farmers, who had bought the land after the timber was taken therefrom, and realizing that the character of the soil was of a kind that would give them good returns for the labor expended thereon. Soon others attracted by the fertility of the land purchased homes, and when the prospect for a railroad golf through appeared as a certainty, a town was planned and Mr. J. D. C. Newton, cashier of the Chaffin Bank, acting for J. A. Chaffin & Co., in conjunction with Mr. J. W. McCart, a sturdy Alabamian, who had only shortly before purchased the land was cultivating it for a farm at the time, in addition to many of the old families who had lived in this county for many years. Among the number of these pioneers being Mr. J. M. Hart. Many desirable citizens from Alabama began to arrive, invest and build, until today, less than two years from the date of its conception, the school house, which is an index to population and class, is patronized by over one hundred

pupils, with a corps of splendid and efficient teachers.

The business portion already in vogue consists of a number of hustling men who are filling their stores with stocks to meet the requirements of their patrons and selling goods at very reasonable prices. They consist of:

A splendid livery and sales stable, owned by W. F. Moore and J. D. Lee. A drug and general merchandiser store, owned by C. C. Eiland, Jr.

Jas. A. Short, who occupies a large concrete store and carries a large stock of general merchandise. Hicks Brothers, dealers in general hardware. The Baker Drug Co., who handle a nice line of drugs and cold drinks and is owned by F. A. Harp and A. G. Blue. A nice, up-to-date millinery and dress-making establishment conducted by Miss Francis Hilton.

On the west side of the railroad four brick stores are occupied with a nice line of merchandise by wide-awake merchants, consisting of the Baker Mercantile Co., of which Mr. Z. W. Moore is proprietor.

The Maloy Drug Co., who handle a nice line of drugs and cold drinks, is owned by L. J. Maloy and W. A. Richard.

Lester and McKinney, composed of Mr. E. W. Lester and W. J. McKinney, do a nice line of general merchandise, after which in line comes Mr. A. B. Morris, who carries a large line of goods called for by his trade, in addition to which Mr. Morris is interested in the grist mill and cotton ginney with Mr. J. W. Lee.

A first-class blacksmith shop is conducted by Mr. Allen, who, unlike Longfellow's poem, does his work in the shop instead of under a chestnut tree, and has as yet no daughter to go to Sunday school and church with him, though the brawny arm is there with all the goods. The Baker Warehouse is at present in charge of Mr. A. G. Blue, who is dispensing guano and other stimulants for the soil.

The Saint Rose hotel is an up-to-date hostelry, owned by Mr. J. M. Hart, whose charges are reasonable, and who looks after the gastronomic idiosyncrasies of its guests for so much per, and the beds and rooms are fit for the most fastidious. Mr. Hart is now also in position to rent a team or take one buggy riding or any other form of livery, as he has just purchased the livery business of J. W. Kierce, who has been in this line of business.

Physicians to take care of the sick, if any should so far forget themselves as to get in such way, are Dr. Spear, who has an office in the Baker Drug Co. building, and Dr. Christian, whose office is with the Maloy Drug Co.

The tonsorial emporium is shed by Mr. D. J. Wilkinson, who claims to give an ordinary shave, but says he has no superior as a hair cutter.

The postoffice is neatly kept and polite attention given to the public by Mr. H. L. Eiland, while the railroad

company has a very courteous agent in the person of Mr. W. W. Ethridge, who has almost as multifarious duties to perform as the Mikado in Gilbert and Sullivan's opera. Among these duties being long distance—likewise short—telephone operator, telegraph operator, ticket agent, freight agent and express agent.

The Fraternal Orders are well represented by Mount Ewell Lodge, No. 181, F. & A. M. S. E. Mount, W. M., and Cobb Camp, W. O. W., of which A. B. Morris is C. C.

Religious affairs are actively conducted by a Baptist church, of which A. W. Langley is pastor and the Methodist church—who are at present holding services in the Masonic Hall, Rev. Noah Allen, ministering to his members.

Long and short distance telephones are in uniform working order and connection with the outside world is in that manner had when required.

And last, but not least, in the organization of the progress of the town, comes the Baker Banner, which, while not as large as the Sunday issues of the Metropolitan dailies, is larger in proportion to the town and better edited than many we know of. The Banner is conducted in its own building, and is edited by Jas. M. Brown, who, while not old in experience, is learning fast and giving the people of his section a very creditable sheet.

Mr. Brown has in his office a charming learner in the "art preservation of Mrs. Pearl Henderson, who in addition to gracing the office, is utilitarian enough to not decline the drudgery that necessarily accompanies the duty of the type.

Baker—named in honor of Dr. R. Q. Baker, of DeFuniak, an eminent Presbyterian minister and a lifelong teacher, a scholar and Christian gentleman, who is beloved and respected by all who know him—has bright prospects before it, as many improvements are contemplated in the near future by its sponsors and citizens who are ambitious to make this a modern interior city with a constituency supporting it that has no safer or better backing the world over—the Farmer.



Residence of Dr. G. O. Spears, Baker, Florida.

MARY ESTHER AN UP-SOUND BEAUTY SPOT

IDEAL FOR SUMMER OR WINTER TOURIST TRADE, AND LOCATED ON THE SHORES OF "THE NARROWS," A SHEET OF WATER FAR-FAMED FOR ITS BEAUTY.

Mary Esther, located some forty miles deep in the "Up Sound" country, resting snugly in the heart of "The Narrows," a magnificent sheet of water connecting Santa Rosa sound and Choctawhatchee bay, is among West Florida's most widely known and thoroughly attractive summer resorts, hundreds enjoying the fine gulf breezes and the breath of the health-giving pines each year. The fare by boat (you can reach it no other way) from Pensacola, is but a dollar; launches and steamers make it possible to go to town three times during the week, if you will, and the good treatment accorded you at "The Cedars," the fine fishing, golf bathing, historical spots, and picturesque scenery make the situation an ideal one. "The Cedars" was formerly the family home of the late Geo. Bedell, paternal grandfather of Manager George H. Hervey of the San Carlos, and the town was named by its founder, John Newton, the famous Walton county school teacher, for his wife and daughter, "Mary Esther." Directly across the Narrows from the settlement is a stretch of one of the finest portions of Santa Rosa

Island, which divides The Narrows and the Gulf of Mexico. Mary Esther is situated on the mainland, between Harris and Camp Walton, and is in easy access to the famous "Ladies' Walk," "Hollow Hill," and other attractions of that part of the island.

Song General Information. Mary Esther, although possibly the most picturesque part of Santa Rosa water front, has not advanced like some of the adjoining communities, due almost entirely to the fact that the land has been until lately unobtainable, and even now there is but a small portion open to people seeking sites for residential purposes. The water front east of Mary Esther, is taken up by summer homes, and to the west, within the last year, there have been built seven or eight residences by well-to-do northern people who intend making permanent homes there. The Hotel Cedars is always popular

as a summer resort, and is patronized by the very best people. The proprietor, Mr. Charles Shipley, is an old timer, having the knack of catering to the various desires and tastes of his many guests. The attractions of the place are hunting and fishing, bathing and boating. The narrowest part of Santa Rosa island being at Mary Esther, brings the gulf within but a few minutes of the hotel.

Through the efforts of the late Mr. John Newton, Mary Esther has been associated with educational work for a long time, and now Santa Rosa academy, which has been established for a year past, is one of the points of being further enlarged under new auspices, it being found necessary to equip it with dormitories to accommodate the large number of out-of-town students seeking private school education. The teaching staff, the medical attendance under the super-

vision of Mrs. T. J. Pryor, M. D., the healthy environment, as well as the congenial surroundings for study and the opportunities for outdoor sports, have attracted both pupil and parent.

The golf enthusiast who loves the game better than he plays it, does not always have an easy time; for besides his difficulties with course and ball and club, he must often suffer the caddy's stinging scorn, says the Denver Times.

One afternoon a fat man who was struggling over the course, made a particularly bad play and tore up a large piece of turf with his masher. Lifting the sod in the hand, the player said ruefully to his caddy:

"What on earth am I to do with this?" "If I were you," the boy answered, "I'd take it up to the hotel to practice on, sir."

J. S. PENDLETON

Dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries

I know that a *Satisfied Customer* is the best advertisement and consequently do my utmost to please my trade. Should you find any mistake, or have cause for complaint, I am at all times willing to rectify mistakes and adjust all difficulties to the satisfaction of my customers. *Your trade will be appreciated* ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

J. S. PENDLETON
Milton, Florida

The Store That Has the Reputation. Your Money's Worth Guaranteed.

Bates' Big Dry Goods Store

The Leading Dry Goods Store of Santa Rosa County.

\$25,000 Stock of Dry Goods, Shoes, Clothing and Millinery

We are five years old and now do a business annually of \$65,000. Our store is well equipped with all the latest fixtures. I have my own electric light plant, also electric fans. This store has as fine a millinery department as you will find in any city up to twenty-five thousand population. There are very few stores in West Florida that are more up-to-date than the Bates Dry Goods Store. This picture only shows one-half of this big store. You will have to visit Milton to appreciate our efforts.

We Are Headquarters for the High Standard in Quality. Below We Mention a Few of Our Leading Brands

Shoes for Men

Heywood\$4, \$4.50 and \$5
Hanan\$5, \$6 and \$6.50
Mann's\$4 and \$5
McElwain\$3, \$3.50 and \$4

Shoes for Ladies

Red Cross\$3.50 and \$4
Bates' Special\$2.50 and \$3.50
Freedman's\$3 and \$3.50



Birdseye View of One-half of Interior of our Store.

Misses' and Children's Shoes

Red Goose, 5-8, \$1 to \$1.50; 8-12, \$2 to \$3; 12-2, \$2 to \$3.

Clothing

The famous Schloss Bros. Clothing; Suits, \$15 to \$30.

Bates' Big Dry Goods Store

MILTON, FLA.

H. S. BATES, Proprietor.